Rights Commission against the Indian Government's handling of the Ayodhya issue;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what is the reaction of Government in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SINGH) : (a) and (b) Government have noted the address by the Prime Minister of Pakistan to the 49th Session of the Commission on Human Rights at Geneva on 2nd February 1993 where he alleged that Babri Masjid was allowed to be destroyed and thousands of Muslims were killed in ensuing Violence.

(c) Government have conveyed to Government of Pakistan our deep regret and strong disappointment over such statements, which apart from constituting an unacceptable interference in our internal affairs, served only in exacerbating public sentiments.

India's Nuclear and Space Programme

1785. DR. SANJAYA SINH : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that India's nuclear and space programmes will be significantly affected by the recent US initiated revision of the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR), as per the news item entitled 'Revised MTCR to affect India's Plans', which appeared in the Hindustan Times, dated February 2, 1993; and

(b) if so, what action Government propose to take in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SINGH) : (a) and (b) USA and other members of the MTCR announced revised guidelines extending the scope of restrictions from "missiles capable of carrying nuclear weapons" to "missiles capable of carrying any weapon of mass destruction", thus lowering the thresholds established earlier. Specific thresholds however, have not been announced under the revised guidelines. In May 1992, the US imposed an embargo on ISRO for a period of two years in respect of components and systems for space programmes. This embargo is still in operation. Despite these restraints, the Government is committed to pursuing the space programme with a view to establishing a self-reliant base in space sciences and space technology.

Observations of Pakistan P.M. on Kashmir Issue

1786. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have seen reports of the observations of the Prime Minister of Pakistan on the Kashmir issue during his address to the U.N. Commission on human rights in Geneva on February 2, and also Pakistan National Assembly's resolution on the same subject in its session on February 4, 1993;

(b) whether Government is aware that the Jammat-i-Islami has called an all party meeting in Lahore on February 6, 1993 to express solidarity with the militants and terrorists in Kashmir; and

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take or has taken to warn Pakistan Government against blatant interference in India's international affairs ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SINGH) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Pakistan's attempts to internationalise the Kashmir issue are in violation of the Simla Agreement. This is deeply regrettable and raises serious doubts about Pakistan's sincerity in pursuing a bilateral dialogue. Pakistan's recent statements and actions are totally unacceptable, constituting an interference in our internal affairs. Government have firmly told Pakistan that in order to create an atmosphere for any meaningful discussions Pakistan should abandon its negative and confrontational approach and give up its support to terrorism and subversion directed against India.

Passport issued by the Passport Offices

1787. SHRI ANANT RAM JAISWAL : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) number of applications for passports received in each week during January to

December, 1992 by the Passport office in India.

(b) number of passports issued in each week during that period; and

(c) average time taken by each Passport office in India to issue a passport in the month of June, 1992 and in the month of December, 1992 respectively ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA) : (a) and (b) A statement is placed on the Table of the House [*See* below].

(c) The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

Statement

Sl. No.	Week Ending	Number of Applications received in the POs	Number of Passports issued in the POs
1	2	3	4
1	03-01-92	70010	28420
2	10-01-92	63536	34793
3	17-01.92	54687	28024
4	24-01-92	55235	35709
5	31-01-92	58187	28333
6	07-02-92	59409	32100
7	14-02-92	54302	33574
8	21-02-92	52497	37949
9	28-02-92	59445	36702
10	06-03-92	52747	36210
11	13-03-92	55773	41576
12	20-03-92	51253	37173
13	27-03-92	53383	42985
14	03-04-92	49958	39916
15	10-04-92	48601	39779
16	16-04-92	24786	20826
17	24-04-92	51562	44424
18	01-05-92	45257	41383
19	08-05-92	43209	41511
20	15-05-92	44645	44856
21	22-05-92	40848	48227
22	29-05-92	43555	50618
23	05-06-92	42756	48010
24	12-06-92	37724	38957
25	19-06-92	39071	41828
26	26-06-92	43837	53162
27	03-07-92	43721	50153
28	10-07-92	43717	40499
29	17-07-92	47940	50317
30	24-07-92	49311	51650
31	31-07-92	38630	54275
32	07-08-92	45837	45878

1	2	3	4
33	14-08-92	54031	45119
34	20-08-92	47613	44059
35	28-08-92	51599	50193
36	04-09-92	43644	38317
37	11-09-92	34634	30526
38	18-09-92	50859	51675
39	25-09-92	42510	48151
40	01-10-92	39174	44694
41	09-10-92	35086	35557
42	16-10-92	46805	48339
43	23-10-92	46601	46691
44	31-10-92	40634	41483
45	06-11-92	46578	41861
46	13-11-92	43064	44154
47	20-11-92	50423	52803
48	27-11-92	47331	61351
49	04-12-92	61514	57634
50	11-12-92	25705	40289
51	18-12-92	38642	55732
52	24-12-92	38936	44870
53	01-01-93	60204	55452
		2511016	2278767

Indians getting shelter in Bangladesh and Myanmar

1788. DR. SANJAYA SINH : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have initiated a dialogue with Governments of Bangladesh and Myanmar regarding the issue of Indian insurgents getting shelter in those two countries; and

(b) if so, what is the response of those two Governments in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SINGH) : (a) The dialogue on various aspects of their support to Indian insurgents has been continuing for sometime with the Governments of both Bangladesh and Myanmar.

(b) The Joint Communique issued on the occasion of the visit to India of the Bangladesh Prime Minister in May 1992, stated that the two sides would take effective measures in order to maintain peace and tranquility all along the border and would refrain from unfriendly acts. In essence, Bangladesh has denied being involved with the activities of Indian insurgents, and have also, in response to our concern, assured us that they would further look into the evidence provided by India on the subject.

Myanmar has also denied involvement with the activities of Indian insurgents. During the visit to India of the Director General of the Myanmar Foreign Office, H.E. U. Aye, in August 1992, the two sides agreed to take effective measures to maintain peace and tranquility along the border and to prevent all categories of negative activity. To achieve this objective, Myanmar has accepted our suggestion to evolve an effective mechanism of border management, by strengthening contacts between civilian border authorities.